

Upazila roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Husband gets death penalty for killing wife

Apr 28: A man was awarded death penalty here on Sunday for killing his wife for non-payment of dowry money, reports UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that the accused Babul Miah of Basara in Nabinagar upazila strangled his wife Sofia Begum, 20, to death in a broad-day light on October 10, 1989 for failing to repay the demanded dowry money of Taka 10,000.

A case was filed with Nabinagar thana accusing five people for the murder and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them. The District and Sessions Judge Nazmun Ara Sultana after examining the records and witnesses awarded death penalty of Babul and acquitted four others.

The acquitted persons are Ibrahim Ali, Mafuherun Nessa, Ferdousi Begum and Harun Miah.

SIRAJGANJ

Progress on six projects unsatisfactory

From Our Correspondent

Apr 28: Works of six projects had been taken up by Operation and Maintenance (O&M) divisions of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) at Sirajganj and Bogra are going on slowly and the completion of works has become uncertain.

It is informed that Sirajganj and Bogra divisions of BWDB took up six projects to construct flood control embankments at the estimated cost of Taka 18 crores.

But due to delay of receiving the allocations, slow progress of works, delay in issuing work orders and complexity in acquiring required land have made the completion of works uncertain.

It is apprehended that construction work of the embankments will not be completed before the ensuing rainy season.

Meanwhile water level of the Jamuna and other tributaries have recorded rise at an alarming rate. Continuation of such rise in water level of the rivers will ensure entrance of river water in the Western part of the Brahmaputra flood control embankment within next fortnight through breaches which were created during last floods.

KISHOREGANJ

Health complexes in problems

From Our Correspondent

Apr 28: All health complexes in 13 upazilas of the district have been facing multifarious problems.

The problems are paucity of pure drinking water, absence of drainage system, ambulances, blood bank, dental and eye specialists, scarcity of medicines, shortage of staff and surgical instruments.

Everyday thousands of patients coming from the remote areas go back disappointed for want of proper treatment.

The supply of drinking water has been hampered due to leakages in the reserve tank causing untold sufferings to the patients.

On the other hand, the supply of medicines in quite inadequate. Life saving medicines are not available in the hospital to treat the patients.

It is complained, the drugs supplied to the patients by the government are sold in black-markets by a section of dishonest staffs. Such illegal practices and irregularities are not checked.

MANIKGANJ

Three pipeguns recovered

From Our Correspondent

Apr 28: Shibbalaya police recovered three pipeguns from Aricha launch ghat of the district recently.

Acting on secret information, a police party raided Aricha launch ghat and recovered a bag with three pipeguns from a night coach which was standing at ghat.

A case has already been registered with Shibbalaya police station in this connection.

Another report adds: One Radha Rani Karmoker (14), daughter of Dhirendra Nath Karmoker of village Baranganj under Shibbalaya upazila of the district committed suicide by taking Nitric acid recently.

It is informed that the victim was committed suicide over family feud.

No case has been registered in this connection.

BARISAL

Seminar on 'Export Development Fund' held

From Our Correspondent

Apr 28: A day-long seminar on 'Export Development Fund' was held at local zilla parishad hall of the district recently.

Export Development Project organised the seminar in collaboration with Bangladesh Bank and sponsored by USAID, World Bank and Government of Bangladesh.

The State Minister for Education, Principal Md Eunus Khan inaugurated the seminar as chief guest.

Dr James L. Mudge, USAID, Dhaka, Md Shamsuddin, DGM, Bangladesh Bank, Barisal, were attended in the seminar.

Dr Kabiruddin Ahmed, Advisor, Export Development project presided over the meeting.

The seminar was participated by senior bankers, exporters and others involved in the exports of non-traditional manufactured goods.

SATKHIRA

72 fire incidents: property worth Tk 5 cr gutted last yr.

From Our correspondent

Apr 28: A total of 72 fire incidents took place in Satkhira district in the last year.

It is gathered that property worth Taka five crore were completely gutted. Five persons and 55 cattle were burnt to alive.

Most of the fire incidents originated from kitchen, short circuit, burning cigarette ends etc.

It is reported that fire brigade in Satkhira rendered services saving property worth over Taka 25 lakh in the last year. It can be mentioned here that they have failed to render services outside the pourashava.

People have urged the concerned authorities to make arrangements for setting up fire brigade station in the upazila headquarters of the district.

KURIGRAM

Education Week observed

From Our Correspondent

Apr 28: The prize giving ceremony of the Education Week-92 was held recently at the local Town Hall with much enthusiasm.

Shafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram was present as the chief guest and gave away prizes to the successful competitors in the literary-cultural competitions held on this occasion in two groups.

Presided over by Khairul Alam, ADC (General) the prize giving ceremony was addressed among others by Associate Prof Mostafa Bin Hossain Khondoker, Nazrul Islam Khan, Abdul Mannan Surker, District Education Officer and Member Secretary of Education Week Udjapan Committee.

Best teachers in the district were also awarded prizes in the function. Those who were adjudged the best teachers: Associate Professor Mostafa Bin Hossain Khondoker (College Level) of Kurigram Government College, Moulana Mozammelul Haque (Madrasah Level) Principal of Kurigram Alia Madrasah, and Abu Bakar Mia (Secondary School Level) Head Master of Fulbart Gasima High School.

GAIBANDHA

Father kills son over squabble

From Our Correspondent

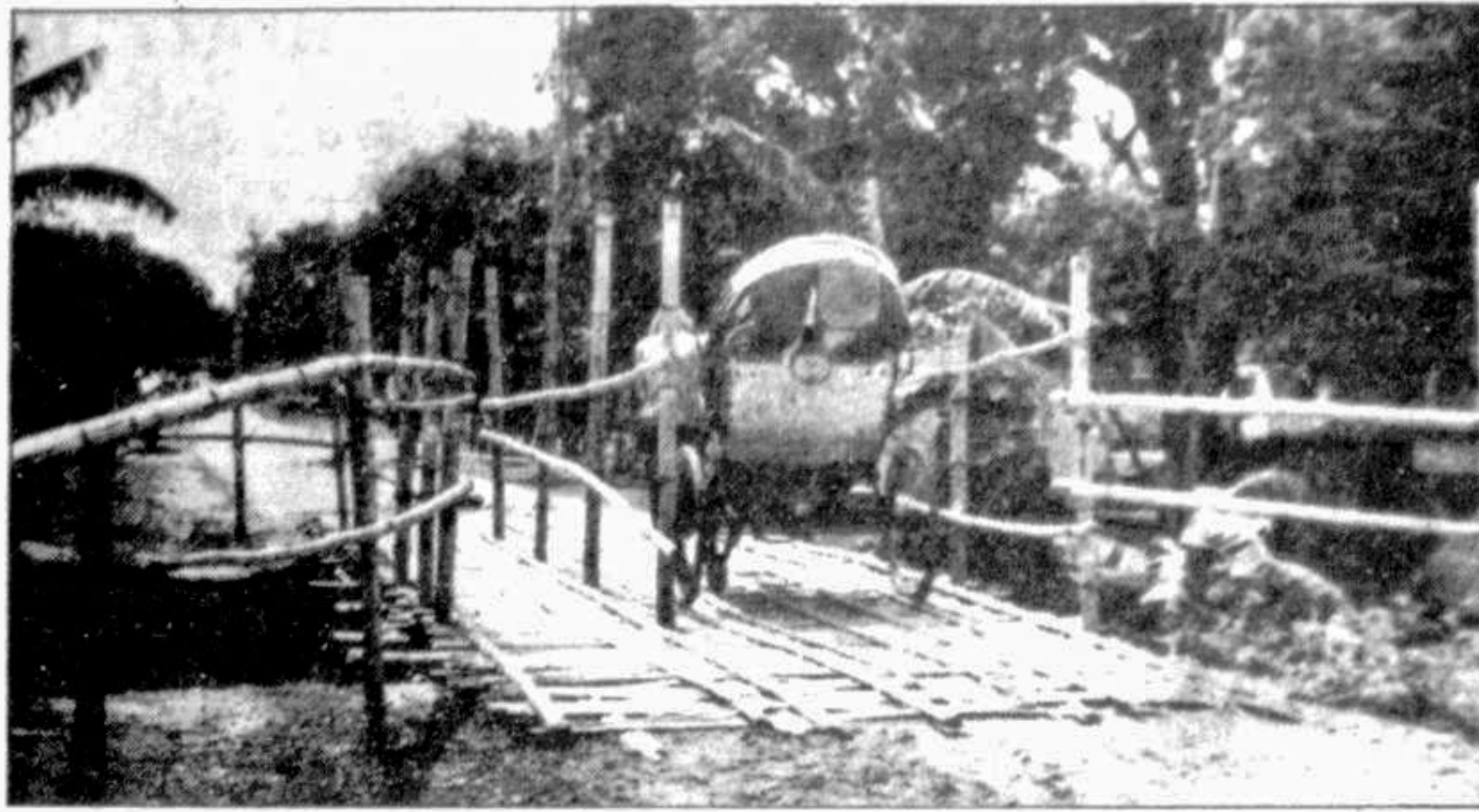
Apr 28: One Fazley Rahman was killed his son Nurul Alam (28) with a sharp knife at village Rasoolpur under Sadullapur upazila over a squabble.

It is informed that on the day of incident, Fazley Rahman was cleaned his room and put all the garbage in front of son's room. At this, his daughter-in-law flew into rage and a quarrel developed between them.

Meanwhile, the victim took the side of his wife and ensued a hot exchange of words between father and son.

Later on, Fazley Rahman was stabbed his son while he was talking his meal. As a result, the victim succumbed to injuries.

The killer father has been handed over to the Sadullapur thana.



RAJBARI: The bridge near College Para of the town was washed away by the 1988 devastating flood but it is yet to be reconstructed. — Star photo.

Paddy fields in Manikganj under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Apr 28: The standing crops including the aman paddy on 12,000 acres of land are under pest attack.

The pests have been locally identified as 'pamripoka' which have attacked the crops in a massive way.

The affected upazilas are: Harirampur, Singair, Shatura, Ghoir Shibbalaya and Manikganj Sadar.

The pesticides which are available in the local markets are adulterated and are selling at an exorbitant price. Most of the farmers who are now economically crippled can not afford money to buy pesticides from the open market at high prices.

When visiting some affected areas the correspondent saw that the pest attack has been spreading very fast and some farmers informed that the assistance extended by Bangladesh Agricultural Extension

Department is quite inadequate to save the standing crops from the pest attack.

Some farmers informed that they could not use requisite quantities of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs for economic crisis and as a result the output is likely to be decreased.

It can be mentioned here that IRRI-boro paddy have become the main crops as the farmers have chosen these to ensure return. If this crop is damaged, the farmers have to face serious hardships.

It is learnt that the local branch of BADC has supplied some spray machine and staff to use pesticides in the fields but it is quite inadequate to combat the pest attack.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take immediate steps to save the

crops on the vast tract of land for the interest of the local people of the district as well as the people of the country.

Another report says: The small and marginal farmers of the district have been selling their crops in advance and in some cases taking loan through mortgage of lands due to acute economic crisis.

A group of well-to-do people of Daulatpur, Shibbalaya and Harirampur upazilas of the district is taking the advantage of the situation.

It is apprehended that the farmers have to sell their belongings including the homesteads in the near future if this situation continues further.

The prices of rice and other daily necessities have risen in the different markets of the district and as a result the poor and low income group have been suffering much.

Diarrhoea claims 12, attacks 600 in Magura

MAGURA, Apr 28: Diarrhoea claimed 12 lives and attacked 600 others in four upazilas of the district during the last three weeks, reports UNB.

The water-borne disease has broken out in Mohammadpur, Sadar, Sreepur and Salikha upazilas in an epidemic form.

According to unofficial sources, seven people died in Mohammadpur, three in Sadar and two in Salikha upazilas. Official sources, however, confirmed only four deaths and 231 people were attacked by the disease in the district during period.

The officials identified the dead as Ahmed Ali (50), Kashim (7), in Sadar upazila and Bashir (26), Noida Barua (70) in Mohammadpur upazila.

A total of 38 medical teams have been working in the affected upazilas.

Acute scarcity of pure water, prevailing dry spell and consumption of adulterated food were attributed to the outbreak of the disease.

Eleven houses with 10 cattle and 15 goats worth about Taka 5 lakh were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Sreepur upazila.

The fire originated from a kitchen of Ator Master and soon engulfed the adjacent areas.

Local people rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

Tk 10 lakh for 8 projects

Sreepur Upazila Parishad of the district has sanctioned over Taka 10 lakh for completion of 8 projects under Annual Development Programme during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, out of the total amount over Taka 1.19 lakh has been sanctioned for construction and development of two government primary schools, Taka 7.61 lakh for construction of two bridges and over Taka 1.25 lakh for construction of four culverts.

Construction work on already started and is expected to be completed by June next.

On completion rural primary education, road communication and sanitation facilities would be improved to a great extent, the sources added.

Re-excavation of two ponds

Re-excavation of two derelict ponds in Sadar upazila has been completed during the current dry season under Food for Works Programme.

Bangladesh Rural Development

Board (BRDB) sanctioned 24 metric tons of wheat for re-excavation of the ponds at villages Amuria and Borasoley to help pisciculture.

Sixteen metric tons of wheat were utilised for re-excavation of Borasoley pond and the rest 8 metric tons for Amuria pond.

The ponds owned by the landless cooperative society members will be a model fish cultivation unit which will help attain self-sufficiency in maintaining their livelihood, BRDB sources said.

Eight Myanmar fishermen held

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 28: Police has arrested eight Myanmar fishermen for killing two of their Bangladeshi companions on Thursday, reports UNB.

The bodies could not be recovered yet.

All the eight Myanmar fishermen had been living unauthorised in Cox's Bazar since 1978, police said.

They said 16 fishermen — eight Myanmar and eight Bangladeshi — left Cox's Bazar on Monday for fishing in the deep sea near St Martin's Island.

Notes from Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Apr 28: Zillur Rahman (35) of the Uttara Bank, Kushtia who was allegedly injured by the miscreants at a marriage function in Haripur recently died on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Following the injury Zillur was admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital. He died on the way when he was being sent to Dhaka for better treatment.

A case has been registered with the Kushtia police station. **One killed, 12 hurt in road accident**

A man was killed and 12 others were injured in a road mishap on Kushtia-Jhenidah highway here.

The accident took place when a Kushtia bound minibus from Jhenidah lost its control and hit a roadside electric pole on Wednesday night.

Ramzan Ali, helper of the bus, was killed on the spot.

Among the injured, Rafiqul (28), Reazuddin (40), Yunus (30), Kanchan (32), Badal Shaha (60), Mintoo (35), Ruma (35) and Mustaq (26), were admitted to Kushtia Sadar Hospital while others were released after first aid.

They body was sent to morgue for postmortem. A case has been filed with the local police.

3 commit suicide

The farmer-operator of a power-tiller, Anwar Hussain was killed here in an accident involving his own machine.

He was going to Bheramara by driving his own power-tiller and last control while giving side to a rickshaw van. The tiller skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch.

Anwar Hussein received serious head injuries and was admitted to Kushtia General Hospital where he later succumbed.

Another report adds: Three people in Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide recently, police sources said.

One of the victims, an old woman Chharian Nessa (70) said to be mentally deranged was found hanging in the kitchen of her house at Fakirabad.

Anwara Begum (24) wife of Shahid Ali of Belghoria was found hanging from a mango tree near her house.

Kutlia Khatun (15), daughter of Awlad Hossain of village Hatia also allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself.

Three cases have been registered with the police.

Two killed by miscreants

UNB reports say: A farmer, Ashgar Ali, 30, was killed and 10 others injured when miscreants attacked a house at village Harora in Majampur union of Sadar upazila recently.

Sources said armed miscreants gheraoed the house and looted valuables. Police sent the body of Ashgar Ali to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered with Kushtia police in this connection. No body has been arrested, but it was said by the villagers that personal enmity between Ashgar Ali and a local primary school teacher was root of the incident.

In another incident at Khoksa upazila one Azizuddin of village Vangpara was stabbed to death by his elder brother last week. A case has been registered in this connection. Details of this incident are not available.

Businessman stabbed, robbed

A gang of miscreants stabbed one businessman and snatched away Taka 11,000 from his possession on Tuesday.

According to police, the victim Adiluddin, 45, of village Kushlibasha in Kumarkhali upazila while going to Halsa from Poradah by train was attacked by the hoodlums.

He was rushed to the Kushtia General Hospital in a critical condition.

A case has been filed with the police.

Indian goods seized

Members of Bangladesh Rifles have seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 1.81 lakh from different parts of the district.

Acting on secret information, the BDR personnel conducted several raids on Wednesday and recovered huge quantity of Indian saree, cotton yarn, jute seeds and razor blades.

The contraband goods were later deposited with local custom authority.

Sick cattle being slaughtered

Sick cattle are being slaughtered indiscriminately in the slaughter house run by the Kushtia Pourashava.

Besides, butchers do not follow the rules and they are slaughtering animals even in the market place in the absence of poura officials.

Sick animals are being slaughtered by the butchers every day which are also being sold at a comparatively lower prices causing health hazards.

Govt college beset With problems

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Apr 28: Sherpur Government College is beset with various problems.

The college, established with the donation of local elite in 1964 was nationalised in 1980. The government allocated 10 acres of land for the development of the college. The site of the college is excellent but no development work has yet been done. At present, the number of students is over twelve hundred.

Moreover, the number of class rooms are too inadequate to cope with the rising number of students. As a result, the students find it difficult even to sit comfortably. The number of fans is also inadequate. According to a source, some posts of teachers, and others staff are lying vacant. Out of 80 posts of teachers, 57 are still vacant and the remaining 33 teachers are unable to teach the students properly.

The post of librarian, office head assistant and cashier are still vacant. There is a mini laboratory room which can hardly accommodate science students. The science students have been facing much problems after the introduction of B.Sc course and the two posts of demonstrators are vacant in this department for a long time.

Social Welfare, General History, Geography and Arabic subjects are yet to be introduced in the college. The collection of books is poor in the library.

On the other hand, teaching and non-teaching staff of the college have been facing acute housing problem in absence of residential quarters. They are compelled to live in rented houses which eat up a substantial portion of their salaries.

Inadequate water supply and absence of toilets pose great difficulties to the teachers, office staff, students specially the girl students. The existing college hostel can accommodate only 45 students. Besides, the hostel building is in a very deplorable condition.

Due to absence of transport facilities, the students who come from far flung areas are unable to attend the classes in time. After upgradation to a government college, no auditorium and even common room have been established.

People of the district, elite of the town and students of the college feel that the present democratic government and concerned authority should take steps on urgent basis regarding the over all development of the college.

80 pc pry schools can't accommodate students

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Apr 28: Most of the primary schools in the district have been suffering from innumerable problems for a long time.

Some of the problems are so acute that those are hampering the academic atmosphere of the institutions.

The schools in Kapasia, Kaliakoir, Kaliganj, Tongi, Sreepur and Sadar upazilas have been facing the problems include dilapidated school houses, accommodation problem, shortage of teaching staff, furniture and educational appliances like bench, chair, blackboards.

The absence of latrines and tubewells in most of the schools leaves the teachers and the taught in difficulties and the female teachers and children are the worst sufferers.

There are 676 primary schools in the district where 2,27,150 students attend their classes. Out of the total, there are 516 government primary schools in the district out of which have no pucca houses.

The 160 non-government primary schools have no fund to pay the salaries of the teaching staff. Most of the non-government schools have no houses of their own. The students of these schools are to sit on bricks, chatas and other things.

According to reports, 117 posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant for a long. Besides, some teachers are not taking classes regularly.

Official sources disclosed that 80 per cent of the government and primary schools can not accommodate the existing number of students fall to provide with other facilities to the students.

The primary schools which were damaged by the cyclones and floods have not yet been repaired or reconstructed. As a result, the students of these schools have been attending classes under the open sky.

normal fall of ground water level.

Almost all the shallow and deep tubewells have remained inoperative over the last few weeks.

Most of the lands have dried up due to prevailing drought and cracks have developed on many cultivable lands making it difficult to till.

Most of the canals, beels, ponds and rivers have already dried up and ground water level recorded all time low throughout the district.

According to official sources, at least 50,000 acres of land were brought under IRRI and Boro cultivation in the district in this season.

Meet on law, order situation

A meeting on law and order situation was held at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner recently.

Presided over by Syed Hafiz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia while the meeting was attended by the Superintendent of Police, Additional Police Super.

IRRI-Boro farming

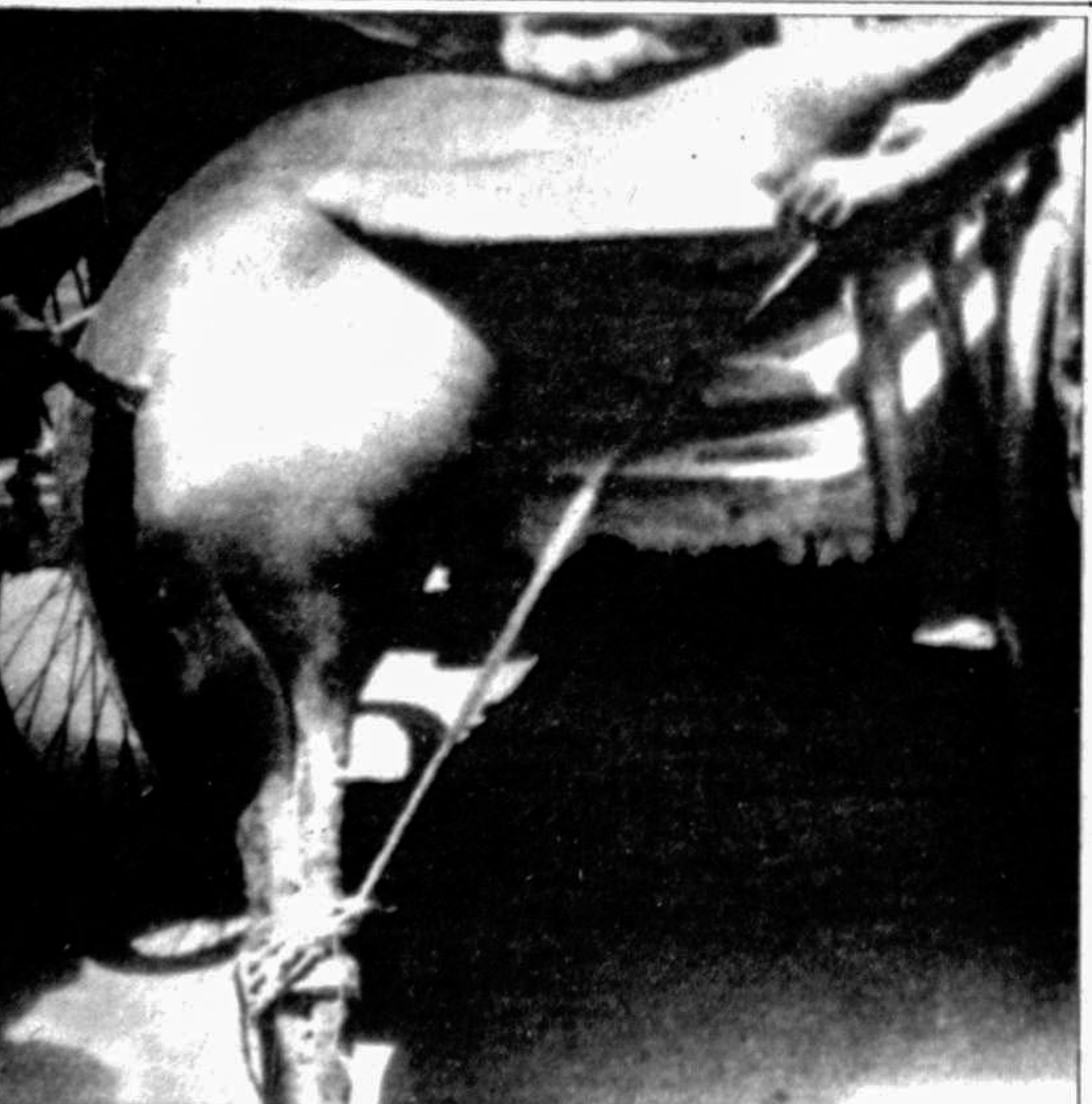
IRRI and Boro cultivation in six upazilas of the district have been badly affected due to ab-

77,151 metric tons of vegetables are likely to be produced in northern region.

Aus farming
A total of 6 lakh 28 thousand hectares of land will be brought under intensive Aus cultivation in 16 northern districts.

Out of that, high yielding variety will be cultivated on 2 lakh 19 thousand hectare of land and local variety on 9,000 hectares.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and BADC will supply seeds, fertilizers pesticide and loans for the implementation of the programme.



BOGRA: Some local fishermen caught a big porpoise (10-maund) from the river Jamuna and sold it to one Butu Mia who arranged an exhibition with it recently. — Star photo.